THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Most of the Concession Agreements for Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects have a provision to use smart cards for tolling systems. Some of the Concessionaires are already using smart cards for tolling e.g. on Jaipur — Kishangarh, Delhi-Gurgaon expressway and Gurgaon — Jaipur sections of NH-8. Smart Cards are being used for local traffic and monthly pass holders, also.

Export promotion council for handicrafts

2292. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any new policy on export promotion council for handicrafts and other products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, DGFT has informed that in the new Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 announced on 27.8.2009 under Focus Product Scheme (FPS), all handicraft products have been categorised as Special Focus Product and are, accordingly, entitled to a benefit of duty credit scrip @5% of FOB value of exports, as against the normal rate of 2% for Focus Products. Handmade carpets and other textile floor covering have also been categorised as Special Focus Products and thus, are entitled to a benefit of duty credit scrip @5% of FOB value of exports.

(c) The above benefits are available on all handicraft products and handmade carpets and other textile floor covering exported from the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Steps to boost apparel exports

2293. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether apparel export had hit their rock bottom line during the last one year;

(b) if so, the apparel exports made during each of the four quarters of 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April, July, October, 2009) so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost apparel exports and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. In fact, India's apparel export was US$ 10243 million in 2008-09 recording an increase of 12.93% over the apparel export during the previous year.